

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00

EUR-10 IO-03 PRS-01 L-02 DPW-01 RSR-01 /070 W

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O R 031102Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5523

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO/SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 14040

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: SITREP

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO
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THE EMBASSY AS OF 1800 AUGUST 3, AND COVERS THE PERIOD SINCE

THE LAST SITREP AUGUST 1.

SUMMARY

1. AUGUST 2 FPJMT SESSION SAW NO PROGRESS IN DISCUSSIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 8 B. FIRST SAIGON-HANOI LIAISON FLIGHT SINCE JUNE 8 LEFT TAN SON NHUT MORNING OF AUGUST 3.

2. MILITARY ACTIVITY INCREASED IN MR 1, STAYED AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL IN MR 2 OUTSIDE KONTUM AND BINH DINH, AND REMAINED AT ESSENTIALLY THE SAME LEVELS IN MR 3 AND MR4. AIR ACTIVITY IN MR 2 - DIRECTED AGAINST ENEMY WEST OF KONTUM CITY - INCREASED NOTABLY. RICE CONVOY IS REPORTEDLY EN ROUTE TO PHUOC LONG VIA CIRCUITOUS ROUTE THROUGH MR 2. DESPITE REDUCED GVN ACTIVITY, CHUONG THIEN CONTINUES AS PRINCIPAL AREA OF CONTACT IN MR 4. VC APPEAR TO BE SUBJECTING NEIGHBORING SOUTHEASTERN PHONG DINH TO PROLONGED LOW-LEVEL VIOLENCE IN CONNECTION WITH EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH REAR-AREA INSTALLATIONS.

PART I FOUR PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM (FPJMT)

1. NO PROGRESS WAS MADE AT AUGUST 2 FPJMT SESSION. THERE WAS LENGTHY DEBATE OVER THE AGENDA ALONG LINES OF PREVIOUS SESSION, AND FURTHER DISCUSSION OF DRV DRAFT MINUTE OF AGREEMENT ON MODALITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING ARTICLE 8B. THE US PRESSED FOR DISCUSSION OF CONCRETE ACTIONS TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLE 8B SUCH AS REPATRIATION OF US DICS FROM NVN. THE DRV REPLIED THAT THIS WAS PREMATURE. INCONCLUSIVE DISCUSSION THEN CENTERED

ON THE CONTENTIOUS ISSUE OF BUILDING MONUMENTS AND CEMETERIES WITH RVN AND PRG POSITIONS ON THIS ISSUE AS FAR APART AS EVER.

2. FOLLOWING AGREEMENT OF ALL DELEGATIONS TO COMPLY WITH STANDARD US AIR FORCE SAFETY PROCEDURES, THE FIRST SAIGON-HANOI LIAISON FLIGHT SINCE JUNE 8 DEPARTED TAN SON NHUT ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 3 AND IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO SAIGON SAME EVENING. PASSENGERS INCLUDED 8 DRV DELEGATION MEMBERS AND TWO POLISH ICCS DELEGATION MEMBERS IN ADDITION TO THREE USDEL MEMBERS.

3. US AND RVN DELEGATION REPRESENTATIVES VISITED JCRC OFF-SHORE CASUALTY RESOLUTION OPERATION NORTHWEST OF DANANG ON AUGUST 3. DRV AND PRG DELEGATIONS DID NOT RESPOND TO SEVERAL INVITATIONS
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BY USDEL TO SEND ALONG OBSERVERS.

PART II GVN-PRG BILATERALS: 19TH PLENARY SESSION,

AUGUST 2, 1973

IN AN UNPRODUCTIVE SESSION, THE GVN AND PRG REPRESENTATIVES ACCUSED EACH OTHER OF FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE JUNE 13 JOINT COMMUNIQUE, MOST NOTABLY BY VIOLATING THE CEASE-FIRE. IN SUMMING UP THE STATE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, VIEN (GVN)

EMPHASIZED THE PROBLEM OF NORTH VIENTMAESE TROOPS IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND THE NEED FOR GENERAL ELECTIONS, WHILE HIEU (PRG) STRESSED AN EFFECTIVE CEASE-FIRE, RELEASE OF CIVILIAN PRISONERS, AND ESTABLIS

MENT OF DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES. AT THE ENSUING PRESS CONFERENCES, NEITHER SPOKESMAN WOULD COMMENT ON QUESTION OF IRAN REPLACING CANADA IN THE ICCS. NEXT SESSION AUGUST 8. (USDEL JEC PARIS 21031)

PART III MR 1

1. I CORPS HEADQUARTERS BRIEFINGS REPORTED 18 CEASE-FIRE VIOLATIONS. GVN CASUALTIES WERE 19 KIA AND 59 WIA; PRG/NVA CASUALTIES, 19 KIA.

2. SINCE 29 JULY 1ST ARVN DIVISION HAS EXPENDED 1175 ROUNDS OF 105 MM ARTILLERY IN AN ATTEMPT TO RECOVER TWO FOWARD POSITONS FROM WHICH TWO SQUADS WERE DRIVEN ON JULY 28 BY MORTAR AND SMALL ARMS FIRE. ON 30 JULY, AFTER TWO DAYS OF SHELLING, COMMUNIST FORCES ANNOUNCED BY LOUDSPEAKERS THAT THEY WOULD RELINQUISH THE POSITIONS OF THE BARRAGE CEASED. INSTEAD THEY USED THE RESPITE TO DIG IN DEEPER. 1ST DIVISION RESUMED SHELLING AND ON AUGUST 1 AND 2 TWO ATTEMPTS TO RETAKE THE POSITIONS WERE HELD OFF BY ENEMY FIRE. 1ST DIVISION HAS SO FAR LOST ONE KIA AND 14 WIA IN THE COUNTER-ATTACK.

2. I CORPS FORWARD CHIEF OF STAFF MENTIONED TO ARRO DIRECTOR THAT ON SEPTEMBER 15 THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE RECAPTURE OF QUANG TRU CITY WILL BE COMMEMORATED IN HUE. PRESIDENT THIEU IS EXPECTED AND OFFICIALS HOPE AMBASSADOR MARTIN AND OTHER DIPLOMATS WILL ATTEND.

PART IV MR 2

1. SECURITY SITUATION: THERE WERE NINETEEN REPORTED INCIDENTS
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IN MR 2 OVER THE PAST 48 HOURS. HOSTILITIES REMAINED AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL EXCEPT IN BINH DINH AND KONTUM. AIR ACTIVITY, HOWEVER, INCREASED SHARPLY, CONTINUING THE UPWARD TREND OF THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS. CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES DECREASED AND WOULD HAVE BEEN MUCH LIGHTER FOR THE RVNAF HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR TWO AIR MISHAPS IN KONTUM: VC/NVA: 13 KIA; RVNAF: 11 KIA (EIGHT IN MISHAPS) PLUS FOUR CIVILIANS; 32 WIA (16 IN MISHAPS) PLUS 5 CIVILIANS.

2. THE MOST IMPORTANT ACTION DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD TOOK PLACE IN THE AIR. THE NUMBER OF TACTICAL AIR MISSIONS REGION-WIDE HAS INCREASED SHARPLY DURING THE WEEK: FROM 45 ON JULY 30 TO 70 ON AUGUST 2. THE MAJORITY HAVE BEEN IN KONTUM; DIRECTED AGAINST ENEMY STRONGHOLDS WEST OF THE CITY. MISHAPS - REPORTED WITH SOME CANDOR BY THE RVNAF - HAVE ATTENDED THE INCREASED ACTIVITY, INCLUDING IN ONE CASE LOSS OF A POLOT AND A CLOSE AIR SUPPORT MISSION

10 KM WEST OF KONTUM CITY WHICH HIT A POSITION OF THE 44TH REGT,
KILLING SEVEN FRIENDLY TROOPS AND WOUNDING 16.

3. PROV REP IN QUAND DUC REPORTS INFORMATION FROM A POLICE
SPECIAL BRANCE SOURCE THAT 4,000 NVA HAVE ASSEMBLED AT BU KRAK,
THE ONE FIXED MONTAGNARD HAMLET UNDER ENEMY CONTROL IN THE OLD BU
PRANG AREA. THE PROVINCE CHIEF IS SKEPTICAL OF THAT ESTIMATE, BUT
AGREES THE CONCENTRATION IS THERE. SMALL ENEMY RECONNAISSANCE
UNITS HAVE BEEN NOTED IN THE BU BON AREA FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE
THE CEASE-FIRE, INDICATING THAT AN ATTEMPT MAY BE MADE TO PUST THE
RVNAF STILL FARTHER AWAY FROM THIS BORDER AREA.

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COMUSMACTHAI

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USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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LIMDIS

4. SENATE "OPPOSITION" SLATES ARE GETTING SHORT SHIFT FROM QUANG DUC OFFICIALS. ONLY DAN CHU AND WHITE ELEPHANT CANDIDATES WERE TREATED TO A HELICOPTER TOUR OF THE DISTRICTS BY THE PROVINCE CHIEF ON AUGUST 1. AS OF AUGUST 2, POSTERS FOR ONLY THESE TWO SLATES HAD APPEARED IN THE CAPITAL OF GIA NGHIA, OR FOR THAT MATTER, IN NHA TRANG.

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PART V MR 3

1. LEVEL OF MILITARY CLASHES DECLINED SLIGHTLY TO 40 IN 48 HOURS ENDING 0800 AUGUST 3. THESE WERE ONE COMBINED ABF/GROUND ATTACK AND 17 ABF. GVN LOSSES INCLUDED NINE KILLED (ONE CIVILIAN) AND 35 WOUNDED (ONE CIVILIAN), WHILE COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE REPORTED AS 14 KILLED, ONE CAPTURED, AND ONE RALLIER.

2. PHUOC LONG PROVINCE CHIEF COLONEL LUU YEM TOLD CONSUL MORNING AUGUST 2 THAT HE WAS EXPECTING FIRST SHIPMENT OF 50,000 KILOS OF RICE TO ARRIVE BY ROAD IN PHUOC BINH AT 1400 SAME DAY AFTER 900 KM CIRCUITOUS TRIP VIA SAIGON-NHA TRANG-BAN ME THUOT-QUANG DUC-DUC PHONG. OTHER MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SUPPLIES WOULD FOLLOW IN NEXT SEVERAL DAYS. COLONEL YEM ADMITTED TRANSPORTATION COSTS WERE HIGH COMPARED WITH NORMAL 200 KM ROUTE WHICH IS NOW INTERDICTED BY 1A FIGHTING, AND THAT COMMUNISTS COULD BE EXPECTED TO TRY TO CUT THE NEW LONGER "LIFELINE," BUT HE SAID FAILURE TO OPEN 1A AND UNCERTAINTY OF AIRLIFT TO PHUOC BINH LEFT HIM TO CHOICE BUT TO ACT IMMEDIATELY. IF HE CAN'T FEED PEOPLE UNDER GVN CONTROL, PARTICULARLY MONTAGNARDS, THEY WILL LEAVE GVN AREA FOR THEIR OLD HOMES IN COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED CO DUC DISTRICT. MR 3 G-2 LTC BINH TOLD DAO/RLO/USS MORNING AUGUST 3 THAT CONVOY OF 100 ARVN TRUCKS CARRYING MOSTLY RICE IS INDEED SOMEWHERE ALONG THIS LONG ROUTE, BUT HE DID NOT INDICATE PRESENT LOCATION OR ETA. ROUTE IS SAID TO BE ENTIRELY SECURE, BUT INCLUDES DETOUR IN MR 2 TO AVOID A COMMUNIST UNIT THOUGHT TO BE ON HIGHWAY 21.

3. CONGEN LOCAL EMPLOYEE IN PHUOC LONG REPORTS THAT COMMUNISTS HAVE SENT COLONEL YEM A LETTER OFFERING TO STOP SHELLING PHUOC BINH AIRFIELD IF HE WILL GET OFF NATIONAL HIGHWAY 14 TO THE SOUTH BETWEEN DONG XOAI AND ROUTE 311, NOW HELD BY THE 73RD AND 84TH RANGERS. MEANWHILE, PEOPLE TRAVELLING HIGHWAY 14 REPORT THAT RANGER AND COMMUNIST UNITS ARE INTERSPERSED ALONG THE ROAD, AND THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE SAYING THEIR COMMANDER HAS BEEN TALKING "SOLDIER TO SOLDIER" TO 73RD CO MAJOR THRIEU. THE MAJOR WAS REPORTEDLY INVOLVED IN AN ACCOMMODATION WITH THE COMMUNISTS BEFORE THE HIGHWAY 14 OPERATION LAST MONTH, FOR

WHICH HE IS UNDER MILITARY SECURITY SERVICE INVESTIGATION. THE COMMUNIST COMMANDER REPORTEDLY HAS TOLD HIS RANGER COUNTERPART THAT HE WILL LET RVNAF USE HIGHWAY 14 IF THEY INFORM COMMUNISTS IN ADVANCE FOR HOW LONG THDY WILL NEED IT AND HOW MANY VEHICLES

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AND PERSONNEL WILL USE IT, AND IF THEY GO UNARMED.

PART VI MR 4

1. VIET CONG MILITARY ACTIVITY CONTINUED DURING AUGUST 1 AND 2 AT THE RELATIVELY HIGH LEVEL OF LATE JULY. CHUONG THIEN CONTINUES AS THE PRINCIPAL AREA OF ACTION, DESPITE REDUCED GVN ACTIVITY THERE. MR 4 REPORTED 59 VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS, 25 OF WHICH TOOK PLACE IN CHUONG THIEN. 24 GVN TROOPS WERE KILLED AND 166 WOUNDED, AND FIVE ARE MISSING. CORPSCLAIMS 141 VC KILLED, ONE CAPTURED AND FOUR SUSPECTED VC DETAMLAABUDGFLWUK

NVWL,OZCPUGU X

KDAD

HWLE#CHIEFN LTC CAO TAN HAP, APPEARS TO ENJOY STRONGER LOCAL POLITICAL SUPPORT THAN HIS PREDECESSOR, COLONEL NGUYEN HUU KIEM. HAP HAS SAID THAT HE FINDS THE SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE WORSE THAN HE HAD EXPECTED, AND HE IS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE STAFF HE HAS INHERITED. HE HAS NAMED A YOUNG CAPTAIN WHOM HE BROUGHT FROM DINH TUONG TO BE HIS DEPUTY.

3. A PHONG DINH PROVINCE REPRESENTATIVE SUMMARIZES THE MILITARY SITUATION SINCE CEASE-FIRE I AS FOLLOWS: THERE HAVE BEEN ABOUT 400 VC-INITIATED INCIDENTS IN THE PROVINCE, COMPARED WITH 155 IN THE SAME PERIOD IN 1972. RECENTLY-CAPTURED VC DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS FROM THE FIELD CLEARLY INDICATE A VC STRATEGY AIMED AT WEARING DOWN THE RF, PF, AND PSDF THROUGH A CAMPAIGN OF SHELLINGS, HARASSMENTS, AND OCCASIONAL GROUND ATTACKS. ESPECIALLY IN THE SOUTHEAST PORTION OF THE PROVINCE, THE VC ARE ATTEMPTING TO ESTABLISH REST AND RECUPERATION, TRAINING, AND HOSPITAL CENTERS, AND TO SECURE INFILTRATION ROUTES TO CHONG THIEN PROVINCE. FROM THE CEASE-FIRE TO THE END OF JULY, 119 GVN TROOPS WERE KILLED IN THE PROVINCE, 290 WOUNDED, AND 22 ARE MISSING. THERE HAVE BEEN NO HOI CHANH SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE.

4. THE JULY 20 ASSASSINATION OF HOA HAO DIGNITARY HO THAI NGAN POINTS UP THE DISUNITY THAT CONTINUES TO PLAGUE THE ONCE PWOERFUL RELIGIOUS SECT. IT HAS ALSO SHOWN THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ABLE TO DEAL WITH HOA HAO INFRACTIONS OF THE PEACE AS IT WOULD DEAL WITH THOSE PERPETRATED BY NON-HOA HAO - A STATE OF AFFAIRS THAT SOME YEARS AGO THE HOA HAO WOULD NOT HAVE HAD TO TOLERATE.

MARTIN

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NOTE BY OC/T: SAIGON 14040 SECTION 2 OF 2 GARBLED. CORRECTION
TO FOLLOW.

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